DISTRICT CENSUS REPORT.

REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF THE DISTRICT OF NADIA, 1891.

Not printed for sale.

CONTENTS.

		Page.
Head	I.—Early History, &c.	1
"	II.—Movement of the Population	2
"	III.—Varying density of the Population	5
"	IV.—Religion	6
"	V.—Infirmities	7
"	VI.—Education	9
"	VII.—Language	10
"	VIII.—Castes	10
"	IX.—Occupations	14
"	X.—Administrative	19

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY
BY ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL FORWARDED
26 JUL. 1897

DISTRICT CENSUS REPORTS.

No. 516 $\frac{\text{T G.}}{\text{c}}$, dated Krishnagar, the 2nd May 1892.

From—K. G. Gupta, Esq., Magistrate of Nadia,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

In reference to your Census Circular No. 6T.—F., dated the 3rd October 1891, I have the honour to submit the following report on the results of the recent census of Nadia.

REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF THE DISTRICT OF NADIA, 1891.

Head I.—Early History, &c.

The district of Nadia embraces the northern portion of the vast delta which is formed by the Ganges and its distributaries before its junction with the Brahmaputra, near Goalundo, and which is roughly comprised in the present Presidency Division. The sacred Bhagirathi, which takes off from the parent stream in the north-west corner of Murshidabad, and thenceforth monopolizes its sanctity, forms lower down the western boundary of the district. The remaining diffluents—Jalangi, Matabhanga, and Gorai—all pass through the district, while the main stream flows by the north, under the name of Padma.

2. The only portion of the district that lies on the west bank of the Bhagirathi is the modern town of Nadia or Nabadwip, occupying approximately the site of the old city of the same name founded by Lakshman Sen in 1063, to which the capital of Bengal was transferred from Gour, and where in 1203 Lakshmanya, the last Sen king of Bengal, fled before the forces of Muhammad Bakhtiar Khiliji. But though the sovereignty of the land thus passed to Muhammadans, Hindu supremacy continued to be maintained for many centuries by the Nadia Raj family, which derives its descent from Bhattanarayan, the foremost of the five Brahmans whom Adisur had imported from Kanouj, and which after undergoing many vicissitudes of fortune survives to this day, though shorn of its glory and possessions. Nadia may therefore be regarded as a representative Hindu district, though the Hindus now form only 41·9 per cent. of the total population. They, however, outnumber the Muhammadans in the following *thanas*:—

Subdivision.	Thana.
Sadar	Kaliganj. Nakasipara. Krishnagar. Kissenganj.
Ranaghat	Ranaghat. Santipur. Chakdaha
Chuadanga	Damurhuda.

3. It will be seen that, with the exception of Kissenganj and Damurhuda, all these *thanas* border on the Bhagirathi, whose sacred vicinity naturally attracted Hindu settlers. The preponderance of Hindus in Kissenganj and Damurhuda may probably be due to the fact that Raja Durga Das, who received the title of *Majmua-dar* Bhabanand as well as large additions of territory from the Emperor Jehangir, moved his capital to Matiari 5 miles north-east of Kissenganj, while a brother of his, Jagadis, established himself at Kodalgachhi, a few miles south-west of Damurhuda.

4. In the Kushtia subdivision, on the other hand, the Muhammadans vastly outnumber the Hindus, the percentage of the former upon total population being 69 against 30·9 of the latter, the reason being that the Hindus, who have the greatest aversion to change their ancestral homes, avoid the fertile and populous but ever-shifting *chars* of the Padma that make up a large portion of four out of the six *thanas* in the subdivision.

5 The district does not properly come under either the Rarh or the Barendra tract, but it is contiguous to both, being separated from the former by the Bhagirathi and from the latter by the Padma. There is no clear line of demarcation between the two classes of settlements; but, as was to be expected, Barendra families generally prevail in the north and east, while the Rarh are predominant in the west and south. One notable exception is furnished by Santipur, where the Goswamis, a numerous and influential community, are all Barendra.

6 Since the census of 1872 the following changes have taken place in the jurisdiction of this district.

7. The subdivision of Bongong, with an area of 649 square miles and a population of 362,126, as ascertained by the census of 1881, was transferred to Jessore by Government notification dated the 27th March 1883.

8. A tract of land measuring 31 square miles, with a population of 7,074 souls, known as Mirpadear, was transferred from Rajshahi to the Kushtia subdivision of this district under Government notification dated 27th May 1890.

9. Nine uninhabited villages, occupying 8 square miles, have likewise been added to Kushtia from Pabna, *vide* Government notification dated the 22nd November 1887. There was a transfer of some villages from Daulatpur *thana* to Nayapara *thana*, both in the Kushtia subdivision, which has caused some decrease in the population of the former and corresponding increase in the latter. But these intertransfers of villages do not affect the subdivisional or district totals, and need not be referred to in detail.

1881.		1891.		Difference.
Area in square miles.	Number of villages.	Area in square miles.	Number of villages.	
1	2	3	4	5
3,404	3,700	2,794	2,973	Area in square miles. 610 Villages. 727

10. The marginally noted figures show the difference in the area of the district and the number of villages as ascertained in the census of 1891 compared with those of 1881. This shows a difference of 610 square miles in the area, made up as follows:—

	Square miles.
Added from Pabna	8
,, Rajshahi	31
	39
Gone with Bongong	649
Net decrease ...	610

11. Similarly the difference in the number of inhabited villages is thus accounted fr:—

	Villages.
Added from Rajshahi	9
Gone with Bongong	736
Net decrease ...	727

Head II.—Movement of the Population.

12. The accompanying table, received from the Superintendent of Census, will show the increase or decrease of the district population and of the population of the different *thanas*. The comparison with 1881, has in every case been made after excluding the Bongong figures It will appear that the total population of the district in 1891 is 1,644,108 against 1.662,795 in 1881, showing a decrease of 18,687, or 1·13 per cent. The density of population is 588 persons to the square mile against 595 in 1881.

Variation in Population in the Nadia district.

Thana.	Both Sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	1881.	1891.	Difference.	1881.	1891.	Difference.	1881.	1891.	Difference.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sadar Sub-division.									
Krishnagar	119,469	112,274	− 7,195	57,980	54,897	− 3,083	61,489	57,377	− 4,112
Kaliganj	54,192	46,845	− 7,347	26,206	22,790	− 3,416	27,986	24,055	− 3,931
Nakasipara	59,762	56 385	− 3,377	28,486	27,214	− 1,272	31,276	29,171	− 2,105
Chapra	63,509	63,481	− 28	30,985	31,365	+ 380	32,524	32,116	− 408
Kissenganj	32,701	32,658	− 43	15,981	15,866	− 115	16,720	16,792	+ 72
Hanskhali	45,840	37,364	− 7,976	22,242	18,599	− 3,643	23,098	18,765	− 4,333
Total ...	374,973	349,007	− 25,966	181,880	170,731	− 11,149	193,093	178,276	− 14,817
Ranaghat Sub-division.									
Ranaghat	84,415	77,307	− 7,108	41,122	37,941	− 3,181	43,293	39,366	− 3,927
Santipur	53,864	53,964	+ 100	25,362	25,700	+ 338	28,502	28,264	− 238
Chakdaha	64,620	63,923	− 697	32,527	33,394	+ 867	32,093	30,529	− 1,564
Haringhatta	38,306	34,842	− 3,464	19,419	17,757	− 1,662	18,887	17,105	− 1,782
Total ..	241,205	230,036	− 11,169	118,430	114,772	− 3,658	122,775	115,264	− 7,511

Thana.	Both Sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	1881.	1891.	Difference.	1881.	1891.	Difference.	1881.	1891.	Difference.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kushtia Sub-division.									
Kushtia	27,443	33,505	+ 6,062	13,485	16,752	+ 3,267	13,958	16,753	+ 2,795
Nayapara	137,394	140,883	+ 3,489	66,117	67,096	+ 979	71,277	73,787	+ 2,510
Daulatpur ...	80,571	84,155	+ 3,584	39,026	40,459	+ 1,433	41,545	43,696	+ 2,151
Bhadalia	68,184	72,377	+ 4,193	33,447	35,196	+ 1,749	34,737	37,181	+ 2,444
Kumarkhali	98,247	103,124	+ 4,877	48,099	50,022	+ 1,923	50,148	53,102	+ 2,954
Bhalluka	41,929	48,883	+ 6,954	20,056	23,499	+ 3,443	21,873	25,384	+ 3,511
Total ...	453,768	482,927	+ 29,159	220,230	233,024	+ 12,794	233,538	249,903	+ 16,365
Meherpur Sub-division.									
Meherpur	71,685	69,516	− 2,169	34,557	33,860	− 697	37,128	35,656	− 1,472
Karimpur	102,754	106,852	+ 4,098	49,200	51,057	+ 1,857	53,554	55,795	+ 2,241
Gangani	74,955	73,227	− 1,728	36,628	35,533	− 1,095	38,327	37,694	− 633
Tehatta	89,160	87,121	− 2,039	42,957	42,314	− 643	46,203	44,807	− 1,396
Total ...	338,554	336,716	− 1,838	163,342	162,764	− 578	175,212	173,952	− 1,260
Chuadanga Sub-division.									
Chuadanga	21,818	19,760	− 2,058	10,719	9,813	− 906	11,099	9,947	− 1,152
Damurhuda	63,014	63,386	+ 372	30,783	31,058	+ 275	32,231	32,328	+ 97
Alamdanga	89,947	89,663	− 284	44,529	44,045	− 484	45,418	45,618	+ 200
Kalupol	39,396	36,467	− 2,929	19,676	18,065	− 1,611	19,720	18,402	− 1,318
Jibannagar	40,120	36,146	− 3,974	19,803	17,875	− 1,928	20,317	18,271	− 2,046
Total ...	254,295	245,422	− 8,873	125,510	120,856	− 4,654	128,785	124,566	− 4,219
Grand Total ...	1,662,795	1,644,108	− 18,687	809,392	802,147	− 7,245	853,403	841,961	− 11,442

14. The causes of this decrease may be considered under three heads:—

1.—*Climatic.*

Malarious fever of a bad type has ravaged the district since the latter part of 1880, and was particularly severe in the second half of 1881 (after the census of that year), when it was found necessary to appoint a Commission to enquire into the matter. Since then malaria has never been altogether absent from the district, though its virulence has varied from time to time. Outbreaks of cholera appear almost yearly in the dry season, when good drinking water becomes scarce, and the disease, which often takes the form of acute diarrhœa, finds easy victims in subjects already emaciated and broken down by fever.

2.—*Physical.*

(*a*) *Silting up of rivers.*—"The district is intersected by a network of rivers, the three principal of which—styled pre-eminently the Nadia Rivers—furnish the most direct water route between the Ganges and Calcutta. Their banks were at one time lined with thriving marts, doing a brisk and extensive business in country produce and imported goods, and affording convenient halting places for the fleet of country boats that had the monopoly of the carrying trade of North Bengal and the Upper Provinces. All this is now much changed. The channels have gradually silted up, rendering navigation difficult in the dry season, even for country boats of small burthen. But the most powerful factor in the diversion of trade and the consequent ruin of the old trade centres has been the railway—the East Indian on the one hand and the Eastern Bengal System on the other. The railway bazars that have come into existence deal chiefly in local produce, and the district has practically lost the large share it had in the outside forwarding trade."

(*b*) *Floods.*—These have been exceptionally destructive in recent years. The position of the district makes it peculiarly subject to inundation from the Ganges on the north side, but more particularly from the spill-waters of the Bhagirathi, which, entering the district on the north-west in Kaliganj and Tehatta, sweep across in the south-easterly direction through Chapra and Hanskhali until they disappear in the Jessore district past Bogula. They destroy the *aus*, which is the staple rice crop in the district, and interfere seriously with the food-supply of the people.

(*c*) The closing up of the mouths of the rivers has seriously affected the fertility of the soil, as much of the land is now deprived of the rich silt of the Ganges which they brought down every year. Further, the silting up of the mouths of the *khals*, which supply the *bils* and the interior generally, has much to do with the precarious nature of the crops. With the mouths of the *khals* in their natural condition, the water in the *bil* rises gradually, but when silted up, water only breaks in at the height of a flood, and thus fills the interior basin at once, to the destruction of the rice crop it may contain. Owing to these causes, the soil has distinctly deteriorated, and the gathering of the staple crop becomes a matter of uncertainty.

3.—*Economic.*

(*a*) "Foreign competition has gradually displaced local industries, such as the cotton fabrics of Santipur and Kumarkhali and the cutlery of Haringhatta, and greatly impoverished the weavers and artisans engaged in them.

(*b*) The decline of indigo manufacture has been by no means an unmixed good. The factories gave employment to a large number of the respectable classes, imported labourers from the west, and spent a large amount of capital in the district. Their closure has certainly had a prejudicial effect on the growth of population.

(*c*) The impoverishment of the older families, especially of the Nadia Raj, and the transfer of their possessions to absentee proprietors of other districts have greatly affected the Brahman communities, which were mainly supported by their liberality and piety, and also the numerous dependants and retainers whom their bounty maintained.

(*d*) Almost all the older settlements bear unmistakable signs of decay—rank vegetation, ruined houses, dried-up tanks, and abandoned homesteads. Want of occupation and the growing unhealthiness of the district have induced many of those who could afford it to go and settle in Calcutta and the healthier places of the west."

15. The above general remarks explain briefly the causes of the gradual decadence of the district and the falling off in population.

16. All the subdivisions except Kushtia show a decrease, the largest falling off being in the Sadar, where it was 7 per cent. Coming to *thanas*, the largest decrease (17·6 per cent.) is shown by Hanskhali, followed by Kaliganj (13·5), both in the Sudder subdivision. The other *thanas* that show a high rate of decrease are—

Sadar ...	Krishnagar	6
	Nakasipara	5·6
Ranaghat ...	Ranaghat	8·4
	Haringhatta	9·1
Chuadanga ...	Chuadanga	9·1
	Kalupol	7·4
	Jibannagar	8·4

17. The abnormal falling off in Hanskhali and Kaliganj is undoubtedly due to the combined ravages of malaria and floods. They are specially subject to both. In the other cases the decrease is mainly the effect of disease.

18. The subdivision of Kushtia has so far escaped the inroad of malaria, owing no doubt to its proximity to the Ganges and to the Gorai, which passes through its eastern portion, being still a large, navigable river with a strong flowing current. It therefore shows a substantial increase of 29,159, or 6 per cent. over the figures for 1881, which is contributed by all its six *thanas*. The only other tract that shows any noticeable increase is *thana* Karimpur in Meherpur, a portion of which also borders on the Ganges.

19. No new towns have come into existence since 1872, but the accompanying relative statement will show how the population in the different municipal towns has been affected. This shows that, with the exception of Kushtia, Kumarkhali, and Meherpur, all the others have declined.

Name of Town.	Population according to the Census of—		
	1872.	1881.	1891.
1	2	3	4
Santipur Municipality	28,635	29,687	30,437
Krishnagar ditto	26,750	27,477	25,500
Nabadwip ditto	8,863	14,105	13,334
Kushtia ditto	9,245	9,717	11,199
Chakdaha ditto	8,218	8,989	8,618
Ranaghat ditto	8,871	8,683	8,506
Kumarkhali ditto	5,251	6,041	6,165
Meherpur ditto	5,562	5,731	5,820
Birnagar ditto	(not found).	4,321	3,421

20. There is considerable distinction between urban and rural population. The typical townsman is more knowing, more up in the ways of the world, more generally literate, more frivolous—with a certain amount of external polish and veneer of civilization, and with a decided preference for the luxuries of life. But the country-folk, though less educated and more simple and outwardly uncouth, are on the whole more honest, more earnest, have

greater regard for truth, entertain greater reverence for authority, and their family relations are also purer, less selfish, and less open to objection than in the towns, where sexual morality is at a discount and where proprieties of conduct are less rigidly observed. The villages also furnish the majority of men of the highest culture and education who fill responsible offices under Government or belong to the different liberal professions. These, though they do not altogether give up their ancestral homes, live for the most part in towns. They, however, maintain traces of their rural descent and are not to be confounded with habitual residents of towns. But with the spread of education, and with the increased facilities of communication, the distinction between urban and rural population is slowly but steadily disappearing, and the old simplicity of village life is giving place to a desire for modern comforts, which cannot always be satisfied for want of means.

21. From the table of birth-places it will appear that a large number come from the neighbouring districts of Pabna, Rajshahi, Murshidabad, Burdwan, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Jessore, and Faridpur. This was to be expected. People living in contiguous districts are constantly crossing the boundary line, and doubtless numbers of people born in this district have, as a set off, been enumerated in the districts named above. Of the far-off districts in Lower Bengal, Dacca supplies the largest contingent, consisting of traders, merchants, and professional men.

22. There are immigrants from all the Bihar districts, notably from Muzaffarpur and Shahabad, and to a less extent from Saran, Patna, Purnea, Monghyr, and Gaya. Few come from Champaran Judging from the fact that the males vastly outnumber the females (*e.g.*, 701 males from Muzaffarpur against 79 females, or about 9 to 1), these men come only for temporary purposes. They as well as those coming from the North-Western Provinces serve as menial servants, such as syces, grass-cutters, durwans, guards, peons, &c., and are also largely employed in the lower ranks of the police. They usually return to their homes to spend their earnings, but a few settle down here and amass considerable wealth by usury, and there are instances where landed property has also been acquired by them.

23. The Bunas, under which designation are comprised Bagdis, Bauris, Santals, and other semi-aboriginal castes, originally come from Chota Nagpur and Western Bengal, and were brought by planters as being better adapted for the hard work of indigo manufacture than Bengalis. They are now settled in small villages and have taken to agriculture. One hundred and seventy-eight men and 97 women are shown as having come from Rajputana. They are, generally speaking, Marwari traders. Their largest colony is in Kushtia, where no less than 76 males and 68 females are to be found, chiefly in Kushtia town, where they are settled permanently, one of them being a large landed proprietor and owner of indigo factories.

24. There is scarcely any emigration from this district under the Labour Transport Act; but a large number go out in search of work to Calcutta and the various mills on the banks of the Ganges near Shamnagar, Baranagar, Gouripur, Kankinara, &c. Many of the well-to-do people have emigrated to Calcutta and elsewhere to escape the effects of malaria.

25. A large number of labourers in separate gangs go to Bada (Sunderbans), Dacca, and Northern Bengal for cutting paddy, for which they are liberally paid in kind. The Subdivisional Officer of Kushtia reports that owing to the repeated failure of crops by the floods for the last two or three years, some peasant families having lands, cattle, and implements of husbandry of their own have emigrated to North Bengal, particularly to Hillee in the Rungpur district, and there they have settled down at low rates of rent from the *zamindar*.

26. There are no mining centres in this district.

Head III.—Varying Density of The Population.

27. The subjoined statement will show the number of persons to the square mile in each of the subdivisions from 1872, as ascertained from the census returns:—

Subdivisions.	Number of persons per square mile.		
	1872.	1881.	1891.
1	2	3	4
Kushtia	661	800·53	808·92
Chuadanga	541	581·91	561·60
Ranaghat	539	564·88	538·72
Meherpur	491	535·69	532·77
Sadar	479	534·91	497·86
Total for the district ...	542	603·58	588·44

28. The only subdivision that shows a progressive growth of population is Kushtia, but the figures for 1881 are so much in advance of those for 1872 that, assuming the former to be correct, it throws doubt on the accuracy of the enumeration of 1872. A sudden jump from 661 to over 800 per square mile, as in Kushtia, can hardly be put down to normal increase, and there were to our knowledge no extraneous causes at work during the intervening decade that might account for this immense rise. However, taking the district as a whole, there was a substantial increase in 1881, but since then the population has gone down everywhere except in Kushtia, owing to causes already referred to. The remarkably high density in Kushtia is due to the extreme fertility of the soil, to the good condition of the chief rivers, to immunity from severe ailments, and to the comparative absence of jungle and big marshes. In Chuadanga and Ranaghat, which have the next highest density, though far behind Kushtia in this respect, the lands are generally high and contain relatively a larger number of villages. In Ranaghat the general rate is further swollen by the presence of at least one large town, viz., Santipur, the largest in the district, and in Chuadanga one thana (Damurhuda) has the largest number of villages, with a population of 1,000 and upwards. In the case of Meherpur, though the number of villages is not large, the number of populous villages is considerable. In the Sadar there is much jungle and large areas are occupied by swamps and back-waters.

29. The following statement will show how the population has been distributed per acre of the gross area without making any deduction for roads, rivers, and unculturable and uncultivated tracts:—

Kushtia	per 1 acre	...	...	1·26	persons.
Chuadanga	„ 1 „	...	...	·87	„
Ranaghat	„ 1 „	...	...	·84	„
Meherpur	„ 1 „	...	...	·83	„
Sadar	„ 1 „	...	...	·77	„
Total for the district	„ 1 „	...	...	·91	„

30. The following table shows that the proportion of males to females in the district is 1,000 to 1,049. The proportion in the several subdivisions is as follows:—

Kushtia	...	1,000	males to	1,072	females.
Chuadanga	...	1,000	„	1,030	„
Ranaghat	...	1,000	„	1,004	„
Meherpur	...	1,000	„	1,068	„
Sadar	...	1,000	„	1,044	„
Total for the district	...	1,000	„	1,049	„

31. I cannot account for the fact of there being fewer women in Ranaghat than anywhere else.

Head IV.—Religion.

32. The subjoined statement shows that the Hindus are 41·9 per cent. and the Muhammadans 57· per cent. of the total population, and that the other religions combined make up the remaining 1 per cent.

Religion.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1	2	3	4
Hindu	334,149	355,075	689,224
Muhammadan ...	464,081	483,309	947,390
Christian	3,810	3,487	7,297
Jain	73	66	139
Brahmo	29	24	53
Jew	1	...	1
Buddhist	4	...	4
Total ...	802,147	841,961	1,644,108

33. The general decrease in population is shared by Hindus and Muhammadans alike, but the Christians, male and female, show a considerable increase of 13·6 per cent., as the following figures will show:—

1881.			1891.			Increase.
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3,227	3,105	6,332	3,810	3,487	7,297	965

34. This increase is presumably due to the greater care taken of Christians in sickness and health by the missionaries, for there have been no such wholesale conversions as might otherwise account for the increase.

35. Brahmos show a large increase of 47 per cent., but compared to the district population, the number of Brahmos is infinitesimal.

36. In recent years there has been a marked tendency amongst educated Hindus towards a revival of Hinduism as a protest and reaction, on the one hand, against the growing atheism and materialism of the age, and on the other, against the spread of Western eclecticism, as represented by theism (Brahmoism) and theosophy. The movement may be roughly divided into two parts—one headed by some of the best intellects of the country, who aspire to a reformed Vaishnavism, based on the tenets of the Bhagbat Gita and the teachings of the prophet of Nabodwipa—Chaitannya; and the other led by men not so cultured, whose aim and object is to perpetuate in their integrity all the idolatry and superstition of later Hinduism. Both parties have their own organs and preachers, but the second, as being in greater accord with the prevailing belief of the masses, is more popular, has more followers, and is ostensibly supported by some of the most influential men of the community, who, however, lack the virtues of sincerity and earnestness that characterize the leaders of the first party.

Head V.—Infirmities.

37. *Insane.*—From the marginally noted statement it will appear that the largest number of insane persons in the aggregate is to be found in Kushtia and the smallest number in Meherpur. The total for the district is 378 males and 225 females. The second table shows that the proportion of insanes is highest in Ranaghat and lowest in Meherpur. In Kushtia and Sadar it is very nearly equal.

I

Subdivision.	Male.	Female.
1	2	3
Sadar	87	50
Ranaghat	65	48
Kushtia	124	79
Meherpur	46	26
Chuadanga	56	22
Total ...	378	225

II.

Subdivision.	Ratio per 100,000.	
	Male.	Female.
1	2	3
Sadar	50·9	28·0
Ranaghat	56·0	41·6
Kushtia	53·2	31·6
Meherpur	28·2	14·9
Chuadanga	46·8	17·7

Very few persons are born insane, but the number suddenly rises from the period from 5 to 9 years, the largest number in the case of males being reached between 30 to 34, and in the case of females between 15 to 19. The majority, both male and female, die before 45, but the percentage of longevity (45 and over) is much higher (30·7) in the case of females than in that (19) of males.

38. *Deaf and dumb.*—It will appear from the figures in the margin (I) that Kushtia, which has the largest population, has also the largest number of deaf and dumb population, and the smallest number is in Chuadanga. The total number of deaf and dumb population for the district being 736 males and 437 females, or, for every 7 deaf-mute males, there are 4 females. The proportion is highest in Sadar, next comes Ranaghat; Kushtia and Chuadanga occupy intermediate places, with Meherpur as last.

I.

Subdivision.	Male.	Female.
1	2	3
Sadar	193	115
Ranaghat	151	67
Kushtia	210	117
Meherpur	110	59
Chuadanga	92	79
Total ...	736	437

II.

Subdivision.	Ratio per 100,000.	
	Male.	Female.
1	2	3
Sadar	113·0	64·5
Ranaghat	114·1	58·1
Kushtia	90·1	46·8
Meherpur ...	67·5	33·9
Chuadanga ...	76·1	63·4

39. A good number are born with this infirmity. The largest number in the case of males are returned between 5 and 14, and in the case of females between 15 and 19, and again between 25 and 29. Long life seems to be compatible with this infirmity, as

a considerable number, both male and female—particularly the latter—are shown as being over 60.

40. *Blind.*—The statements below show that in this infirmity also Kushtia subdivision stands first, and the last is Chuadanga. The largest number of blind persons, both male and female, appears to be between the age-period of 40—54.

41. Blindness appears to be particularly conducive to longevity, for no less than 28·4 per cent. of male and 38 per cent. of female blind are 60 years and over.

I.

Subdivision.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3
Sadar	210	184
Ranaghat	145	81
Kushtia	257	216
Meherpur	147	93
Chuadanga	77	79
Total ...	836	653

II.

Subdivision.	Ratio per 100,000.	
	Males.	Females.
1	2	3
Sadar	123·0	108·2
Ranaghat	126·3	70·2
Kushtia	110·2	86·4
Meherpur	90·3	53·4
Chuadanga	63·7	63 4

42. *Lepers.*—Statement I below shows that the largest number of lepers is in the Sadar, and that Kushtia subdivision comes next. There is a striking disproportion between male and female lepers—953 males against 212 females in the district, or 4·5 male to 1 female.

43. It is difficult to account for this great disparity, unless it be that the disease, except in its last stages, not being so open to observation as blindness, &c., would be more successfully concealed in the case of women, owing to their greater seclusion. This remark applies more or less to the other forms of infirmities, in all of which this difference appears, though not to the same extent as in the case of leprosy. The disease shows a progressive increase up to 44, but the largest number is to be found in the last column (60 and over).

I.

Subdivision.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3
Sadar	287	69
Ranaghat	162	41
Kushtia	227	41
Meherpur	154	28
Chuadanga	123	33
Total ...	953	212

II.

Subdivision.	Ratio per 100,000.	
	Males.	Females.
1	2	3
Sadar	168·1	38·7
Ranaghat	141·1	35·5
Kushtia	97·4	16·4
Meherpur	94·6	16·0
Chuadanga	101·7	26·4

44. The definition given in the census instructions about the distinction between leprosy and leucodermacy was correctly interpreted, and it is reported that the enumerators made a careful distinction in the course of the enumeration. The figures for infirmity by religion are not to hand. The popular belief among the Hindus on the subject of leprosy tends to connect the disease among Muhammadans with the excessive use of beef, and among themselves with the manifestation of divine displeasure for sins.

45. Judging, however, from the fact that Kushtia, with the largest Muhammadan population, shows a smaller proportion of lepers than either Sadar or Ranaghat, where Hindus largely outnumber Muhammadans, it can hardly be said that the avoidance of beef from their dietary gives the Hindus any immunity from the disease.

46. The disproportion of the sexes in regard to infirmities will appear from the following two tables:—

I.

Infirmities.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3
Insane	378	228
Deaf and dumb .	786	437
Blind	836	653
Lepers	953	212
Total ...	2,903	1,572

II.

Infirmities.	Ratio per 100,000.	
	Males.	Females.
1	2	3
Insane	47·1	26·7
Deaf and dumb ...	91·7	51·9
Blind	104·2	77·5
Lepers	118·8	25·1

47. Making all allowance for the greater exposure and hardship to which male life is subjected, it is difficult to account for the whole difference, except on the hypothesis that all cases of female infirmities were not reported. It is quite conceivable that parents and guardians would do their best to conceal deformities in the case of unmarried girls, that, if known, must prove a sure obstacle to their finding husbands.

HEAD VI.—EDUCATION.

48. The subjoined table gives the number of persons of both sexes in each of the three prescribed grades of educational attainments, viz., pupils, literate, and illiterate, and the percentage they represent :—

General Statement showing the Educational Attainments of the people of the district.

SEX.	NUMBERS.			PROPORTION PER CENT.			REMARKS.
	Pupils.	Not under instruction.		Pupils.	Not under instruction.		
		Literate.	Illiterate.		Literate.	Illiterate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Male ...	19,699	56,843	725,605	2·2	7·08	90·72	
Female ...	986	3,658	837,317	·01	·5	99·49	

It will appear from this table that out of the whole male population of the district of all nationalities only 2·2 per cent. are pupils or under instruction and the percentage of literate men is only 7·08. The figures against the female sex show that the progress of female education has been very slow, as only ·01 per cent. is under instruction and only ·5 per cent. are literate. These excessively low figures may be ascribed to the prevalence of the system of eary marriage, owing to which girls are not kept in school longer than 10 or 11 years, and from that age their educational career is practically closed. But it appears that even below that age the percentage of school-going girls is very small. There are no statistics under this head for 1881.

49. The following table shows the relative progress of education amongst Hindus and Muhammadans, the two main elements that constitute the population of the district :—

General Statement showing the Educational Attainments of the Hindus and Muhammadans in the district.

SEX BY RELIGION.	Total population.	Pupils.	Literate.	Illiterate.	PROPORTION PER CENT.		
					Pupils.	Literate.	Illiterate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hindu males ...	334,149	15,362	42,344	276,443	4·6	12·8	82 6
Muhammadan „ ...	464,081	4,077	13,936	446,068	·9	3·00	96·1
Hindu females	355,075	623	3,093	351,359	·19	·85	98·96
Muhammadan „ ...	483,309	27	144	483,136	·006	·03	99·64

Taking the males first, the pupils among Hindus are 4·6 and among Muhammadans ·9, the corresponding figures for 'literate' being 12 8 and 3. Roughly speaking, therefore, there is rather less than 1 Muhammadan with education to 4 Hindus. These figures do not prove, as is often assumed to be the case, that Muhammadans are less forward than Hindus to appreciate the benefits of education. The majority of Muhammadans live by cultivation, and the number of respectable or well-to-do men of the community might almost be counted on one's fingers. On the other hand, Brahmans, Kayasthas and other respectable classes, who must receive education if only to earn a living, form a very perceptible proportion of the total Hindu population. Taking Hindus and Muhammadans of equal social status, there would not be much difference in the percentage of educated persons in the two communities. The higher and middle classes of Muhammadans are as much literate (taking not not merely English but also Arabic and Persian) as the corresponding classes of Hindus, but the general percentage is unduly lowered in the case of Muhammadans, owing to the lower classes being disproportionately large—much larger than in the case of Hindus; or in other words the higher

percentage of educated persons among Hindus is due to the larger proportion of respectable classes among them rather than to any difference in the extent to which education has permeated the masses of the two communities. The *bhadra lok* (gentlemanly) class comprise the few well-to-do Muhammadan families and the higher castes of Hindus, such as Brahmans, Baidyas, and Kayasthas. The liberal professions and the Government services are largely recruited from it, and to the men of this class, English education has become a necessity. The demand for English education is spreading, and of all educational institutions, higher and middle English schools prosper most. Primary education cannot be said to show much progress, though it is steadily gaining ground

50. The Persian language has fallen into entire desuetude among Hindus, and by Muhammadans too it is seldom studied.

Head VII.—Language.

51. It will appear from the subjoined table that Bengali is the prevailing language of the district, spoken alike by Hindus and Muhammadans. There is little or no change in the spoken language. The rural tracts are marked by much provincialisms, and the *patois* of Muhammadan peasants is interlarded with a liberal mixture of corrupt Urdu words. Purer Bengali is spoken from Krishnagar southwards, but the influence of the dialects of North and East Bengal upon the spoken language becomes more and more marked as we go further north and east.

Language.	1891.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
1	2	3	4
Bengali ...	793,474	837,939	1,631,413
Hindi ...	7,927	3,636	11,563
English ...	64	71	135
Urdu ...	139	43	182
Uriya ...	179	22	201
Portuguese ...	2	...	2
Norwegian ...	1	1	2
Arabic ...	11	16	27
Santali ...	163	190	353
Jungli ...	59	6	65
French ...	3	..	3
Persian ...	41	23	64
Telugu ...	20	...	20
Assamese ...	1	2	3
Pashtu ...	46	3	49
Armenian ...	3	3	6
Manipuri ...	12	5	17
Latin ...	1	...	1
Panjabi ...	1	...	1
Dutch ...	...	1	1
Total ...	802,147	841,961	1,644,108

52. Urdu and its analogue Hindi are spoken by immigrants from Bihar and the North-Western Provinces generally, and the former is likewise affected by a few well-to-do Muhammadans. Sanskrit is a dead language. Nabodwipa in this district is a renowned place of Sanskrit learning, and is the recognized chief centre of *nyaya* or logico-philosophy. Its *nyaya* schools are largely attended by pupils from all parts of India. Much has been done in recent years for the encouragement of Sanskrit, but owing to the gradual closing up of the careers open to students of Sanskrit and to the decadence of the priestly classes, the *tols* or indigeneous schools are on the decline.

Head VIII.—Castes.

53. *Caste, race, &c.*—Leaving aside the Christians, Brahmos, Buddhists, Jains, and unspecified classes, the main population may be divided into two major divisions—the Hindus and Musalmans—of which the former number 689,224 or 41·9 per cent., and the latter 947,390 or 57 per cent. of the total population of the district.

54. The system of caste prevails largely amongst the Hindus, and the present census has shown that there are no less than 97 main castes and others whose antecedents cannot either be sufficiently traced or are the remnants of aboriginal tribes.

Name of caste.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
Hindus.				
Agarwala ...	93	42	135	
Aguri ...	53	39	92	
Brahman ...	22,692	27,118	49,810	
Baidya ...	624	756	1,380	
Barui ...	1,693	1,753	3,446	
Bahelia ...	703	626	1,329	
Bagdi ..	15,951	15,780	31,731	
Baishnab ...	7,306	10,616	17,922	
Bauri ...	1,186	1,281	2,467	
Baiti ...	737	702	1,439	
Buna ...	8,266	8,731	16,997	
Bedia ...	146	191	337	
Bhui-mali ...	1,509	1,559	3,068	
Bhuiya ...	119	100	219	
Bind ...	746	675	1,421	
Bhumij ...	93	105	198	
Bhaskar ..	3	5	8	
Bhar ..	201	186	387	
Bhat ...	3	4	7	
Badyakar ...	2	3	5	Chamar.
Besya ...	2	25	27	
Chhatri ...	1,469	1,256	2,725	
Chakar ...	254	248	502	
Chbutar ...	2,136	2,309	4,445	Sutradhar.
Chunari ...	221	239	460	Baiti.
Chain ...	300	167	467	
Chamar ...	157	130	287	
Chasa ..	333	288	621	
Chasa-Dhopa ...	472	469	941	
Dhobi ...	2,624	2,786	5,410	
Dom ...	1,031	1,140	2,171	
Dhali ...	7	8	15	
Dosadh ...	137	19	156	
Dhanuk ...	4	...	4	
Dai ...	120	113	233	
Gandha-Banik ...	3,612	4,102	7,714	
Goala ...	40,621	39,850	80,471	
Gaurar ...	651	791	1,442	
Ghatwar ...	40	39	79	
Gareri ...	4	...	4	
Goswami ...	2	1	3	
Hari ...	1,868	2,061	3,929	Bhui-mali.
Halwai ...	1,172	1,221	2,393	
Jugi ...	4,883	4,943	9,826	
Jaliya ...	2,266	2,115	4,381	
Jaiswar ...	22		22	
Kayastha ...	15,103	18,511	33,614	
Kaibartta ..	49,574	49,845	99,419	
Karmakar ...	6,349	6,549	12,898	
Kumhar ...	8,083	9,478	17,561	
Kansa-Banik ...	859	968	1,827	
Kalu ...	5,836	6,383	12,219	Teli.
Kurmi ...	1,046	811	1,857	
Kandu ...	43	28	71	
Kahar ...	1,511	1,383	2,894	
Kuri ...	5,573	5,488	11,061	
Kaora ...	414	357	771	
Kapali ...	2,983	2,912	5,900	
Kol ...	13	10	23	
Khandait ...	2	...	2	
Kewat ...	8	...	8	
Khaira ...	2	3	5	
Koiri ...	33	10	43	
Kathuria ...	15	15	30	
Kotal ...	49	40	89	
Khotta ...	45	5	50	
Kalwar ...	3	4	7	
Lohar ...	17	10	27	Kamar.
Moira ...	2,988	3,414	6,402	
Mali ...	718	739	1,457	
Mal ...	452	440	892	
Muchi ...	21,394	22,665	44,059	Chamar.
Malo ...	10,435	11,527	21,962	
Mehter ...	206	190	396	Bhui-mali.
Marwari ...	80	12	92	
Hindus.				
Mushahar ...	13	6	19	
Matiya ...	30	...	30	
Mala ...	67	22	89	
Majhi ...	94	62	156	Jalia.
Nat ...	1	1	2	
Naga ...	6	8	14	Bairagi.
Napit ...	8,127	8.390	16,517	
Nama-Sudra or Chandal.	17,701	20,157	37,858	
Nuniya ...	18	4	22	
Nuri ...	77	93	170	
Patni ...	1,749	1,881	3,630	
Pod ...	2,817	2,658	5,475	
Pasi ...	14	2	16	
Pundari Kakhya ...	182	164	346	Pod.
Pirali ...	71	69	140	
Raju ...	1	1	2	
Rajput ...	437	846	1,283	
Rudrapal ...	5	11	16	Kamar.
Rajbansi ..	7,824	7,271	15,095	
Rajak ...	904	861	1,765	Dhopa.
Rajwar ...	3	...	3	
Ramait ...	6	4	10	Vaishnav
Rajbhar ...	1	...	1	Bhar.
Sadgop ...	6,485	6,663	13,148	
Sarnakar ..	2,161	2,205	4,366	
Sunri ...	3,167	3,249	6,416	Shaha.
Sutradhar ...	2,354	2,447	4,801	
Sannyasi ...	1	4	5	
Shankhari ...	58	95	153	
Sarnabanik ...	2,329	2,885	5,214	
Saiva ...	9	5	14	
Tanti ...	3,812	3,931	7,743	
Tili ...	3,970	5,033	9,0 3	
Teli ...	1,730	2,079	3 809	
Tiyar ...	1,241	1,047	2,288	
Tambuli ...	532	670	1,202	
Turi ...	245	282	527	
Oraon ...	69	74	143	
Uriya ...	7	2	9	
Udasin ...	3	2	5	Bairagi.
Other castes not mentioned above	5,455	5,472	10,927	
Total Hindus ...	334,149	355,075	689,824	
Musalmans.				
Sayyid ...	2,842	3,051	5,893	
Shaikh ...	456,164	475,212	931,376	
Mughal ...	131	128	259	
Pathan ...	4,922	4,901	9,823	
Others ...	22	17	39	
Total Musalmans...	464,081	483,309	947,390	
Christians.				
European ...	66	40	106	
Eurasian ...	40	35	75	
Native Christians...	3,704	3,412	7,116	
Total Christians ...	3,810	3,487	7,297	
Brahmo ...	29	24	53	
Buddhist ...	4	...	4	
Jain ...	73	66	139	
Jew ...	1	...	1	
Grand total ...	802,147	841,961	1,644,108	

55. The subjoined list will show the population under each caste arranged in alphabetical order. Those under the main Hindu caste heads, which form the majority of the population, are as follows :—

Brahman	49,810
Bagdi	31,731
Baishnab	17,922
Namasudra	37,858
Chandal	10,763
Goala	80,471
Kayastha	33,614
Kaibartta	99,419
Muchi	44,059
Mali	1,457
Rajbansi	15,095
Teli	12,842

The caste list has to a certain extent been swelled by the ignorance of the enumerators in not classifying castes according to their proper denomination, and for want of any intelligent enquiry into their history or origin by which they might have been included, under the major heads. As, for instance, castes like Ahir, Chakar, Chasa, Dhaltri Gouria, Ghasi, Goru, Holdar, Jeswar, Kamat, Kattura, Kafar, Kalindi, Molla, Mathia, Majee, Rohini, Surin, Show, Shaha, Sarkar, &c., &c., should come under some of their major heads, which it is difficult to find out. The caste, *Holdar* should go under *Jalia*. *Sunri*, *Shaw*, *Show*, *Saha* are almost the same caste, with this difference, that *Sunris* and *Shaws* are sellers of wine, whereas *Shows* and *Sahas*, although forming the same stock, have taken to the profession of merchants, and who engage generally in grain and seed business or take to money-lending. These men are more advanced in their views than the Sunris and Shaws and are more enterprising. It is difficult to accurately distinguish the various shades of difference of the multifarious sub-castes that are found in this district, and or to regulate their social precedence, but the following list will show the castes arranged in the order of social precedence as locally recognized :—

(1) Brahman—
- (a) Rarhi.
- (b) Barendra.
- (c) Vaidik.
- (d) Barna Brahman.
- (e) Acharjya (astrologer) and Bhat.

(2) Kshatriya or Rajput.
(3) Baidya.
(4) Kayastha—
- (a) Dakshin-Rarhi.
- (b) Uttar-Rarhi or Bangaja.
- (c) Bahathuria (72 class).

(5) Navasakhas—
- (a) Kumahr.
- (b) Tambuli and Teli.
- (c) Kamar.
- (d) Gandhabanik.
- (e) Sadgop.
- (f) Madak.
- (g) Mali.
- (h) Tanti.
- (i) Napit.
- (j) Barui.

(6) (a) Goala (Pallab).
(b) Chasadhopa.

(7) Kaibartta—
- (a) Chasi.
- (b) Jaliya.
- (c) Mala.

(8) Kalu.
(8a) Dhoba.
(9) Subarnabanik.
(10) Sarnakar.
(11) Jugi.
(12) Chhutar.
(13) Rajbansi.
(14) Baiti.
(15) Bagdi.
(16) Hari.
(17) Dom.
(18) Muchi.
(19) Chandal.
(20) Mixed class—Muhammadans and Hindus.
- (1) Nikari.
- (2) Pakhimara.
- (3) Guni.

(21) Muhammadans—
- Khalu.
- Jollaha.

56. Brahmans are the most respectable class of the caste. Their chief division is into Rarhi and Barendra, so called according to the country assigned to them by King Ballal Sen. The Vaidik Brahmans do not form any part of these classes, nor is there intermarriage allowable among them.

57. The *Barna* Brahmans are those who work as priests to a lower order of castes, as Hari, Muchi, Subarnabanik, &c., and have a position lower in order to that of the high class of Brahmans.

58. The Acharjyas and Bhats—astrologers, fortune-tellers and bards—are generally very poor, and small in number. Their hereditary occupations are no longer paying, *i.e.*, in

the shape of horroscope-writing. Most of them beg from door to door on the pretext of fortune-telling.

59. The most rising among the lower castes are the Telis, Tambulis, and Kaibarttas. They are amassing great wealth by merchandise and agriculture. Some of them have taken to indigo business on a large scale, supplanting practically the European factories in the district, with a few exceptions. One of the Tambuli family has taken to tea planting in Darjeeling, and some have gone in for mining and coal business outside their native district. Manufacturing industries have also received some impetus in their hands, and, as a rule, they take to business enterprise rather than to hankering after Government employment.

60. Generally Brahmans, Baidyas, Telis, Tambulis, and Sahas are the *zamindars*. There are also some petty Muhammadan *zamindars*

61. Navasakhas, Kaibarttas, Goalas, Tiyars, Rajbansis, Bagdis, and Musalmans are the tenure-holders. The poorer amongst these castes, as well as the other castes, below them, are occupancy and non-occupancy *raiyats*. None of these claim any special privilege in respect of the payment of rent.

62. The word Chandal has the same meaning as Namasudra. The former, by long usage, has a very low signification attached to it, for which the Chandals desire to have a change in the nomenclature. Thus, 27,095 persons have been enumerated as Namasudras, and 10,763 as Chandals. The latter word is a new invention with which the low association has not yet been connected. It is only a desire on the part of this caste to better their status that they wish to change the name, but this change of name will not entitle them to any privileges in the scale of castes, and the upper classes of the people will not allow them to touch their cooked food or drinking water.

63. There are two castes known in this district, a portion of which follow agriculture and another fishing by profession: these are the Chandals or Namasudras and the Kaibarttas.

64. Amongst the Chandals the agricultural and the fishing classes eat together and intermarry, but this is not the case amongst the Kaibarttas. The agricultural Kaibarttas have, moreover, the privilege of touching the drinking water of the upper classes of the castes, which the fishing class do not enjoy. The tradition about this distinction, as known in this district, is as follows: Maharaja Ballal Sen wanted to have his son, who was a long way off, to be brought in one day to him. The Jaliya Kaibarttas, who were also boatmen, effected this, and the king rewarded them by giving them the privilege of touching his drinking water. Both the classes have the same priests, and an upper caste man, who will drink water given by a Kaibartta, will not do so when the water is touched by a Brahman of this caste.

65. Nothing is known about the absorption of the Kochh and Dhimal in the large group of Rajbansi.

66. During the taking of the census the Subarnabaniks claimed to be classed as Vaisyas, and there was some sensation about it amongst this caste for claiming this privilege as of right. The Jugis in the same way claimed to be classed as Brahmans, asserting that they are descendants of *Jogis*, and have arbitrarily taken the sacerdotal thread as a distinction from other castes. This is all due to the relaxing of the incubus of social repression of the Brahmans and the levelling tendency of English education.

67. Among the Muhammadans, again, the following subdivisions of caste are in vogue, each claiming a social precedence over the other. The following is the locally recognized precedence :—

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Sayyid	...	...	2,842	3,051	5,893
Pathan	...	...	4,922	4,901	9,823
Mughul	...	...	131	128	259
Shaikh	...	...	456,164	475,212	931,376
Kasai	...	...	...	...	...
Nikari	...	...	3	...	3
Dai	...	...	19	17	36

68. In the above Table it appears that there has been an avowed tendency on the part of the *Nikari* to be enlisted as Shaiks, as the absence of any statistics under this head is significant. *Nikaris* are numerous in this district, and either from ignorance on the part of the enumerators or on account of the generally-accepted epithet of *Shaikh* as applied to Musalmans, all *Nikaris* have been merged in the category of Shaikhs. Nikaris are the descendants of Muhammadan intermarriage with low-class Hindus, and they form altogether a separate caste—neither owned by the Muhammadans nor the Hindus. They, however, profess the Muhammadan religion, and it is found in Courts that the Nikaris are always prone to call themselves Shaikhs. Nikaris generally take to fishing and agriculture—but mainly the former—and are not recognized by high-class Muhammadans. Of the Kasais there are no statistics. The name takes its origin from the fact that these men have made it their profession to slaughter kine, and hence they are generally treated with contempt and are recognized socially as Kasais, who form a separate sect of their own, having no privilege of intermarriage with good Muhammadans.

69. In the same way Khalu and Jolha style themselves as Shaikhs. Khalus are oil-sellers and the Jolhas are weavers. These men are not recognized in the social scale of Muhammadans as Shaikhs, but are treated as separate sects altogether.

HEAD IX.—OCCUPATION.

70. From the following tables it will be seen that the whole of the district population has been divided into 7 classes, which are again broken up into 77 groups and 478 sub-orders of occupations:—

OCCUPATION.	NADIA.			REMARKS.
	Total.	Male.	Female.	
1	2	3	4	5
CLASS A—*Government.*				
Group 1. Service of the Imperial and Provincial Government.	11,023	5,271	5,752	
„ 2. Service of local and municipal bodies.	207	112	95	
„ 3. Village service ...	7,994	3,845	4,149	
„ 4. Army	779	779	.....	
Total class A ...	20,003	10,007	9,996	
CLASS B—*Pasture and Agriculture.*				
Group 8. Stock-breeding and dealing.	27,046	23,478	3,568	
„ 9. Subsidiary service to stock.	50	22	28	
„ 10. Interest in land ...	770,399	380,853	389,546	
„ 11. Agricultural labourers ...	16,650	7,850	8,800	
„ 12. Growers of special products and trees.	4,313	1,820	2,493	
„ 13 Agricultural training and supervision.	17,472	8,094	9,378	
Total class B ...	835,930	422,117	413,813	
CLASS C—*Personal Service.*				
Group 14. Personal and domestic service.	55,144	27,485	27,659	
„ 15. Non-domestic establishment.	113	65	48	
„ 16. Sanitation ...	342	172	170	
Total class C ...	55,599	27,722	27,877	
CLASS D—*Preparation and Supply of Material Substances.*				
Group 17. Animal food ...	75,938	36,163	39,775	
„ 18. Vegetable food ...	27,465	13,127	14,338	
„ 19. Drink, condiments, and narcotics.	36,585	17,889	18,696	
„ 20. Lighting ...	18,102	8,893	9,209	
„ 21. Fuel and forage	403	113	290	
„ 22. Building materials ...	1,287	614	673	
„ 23. Artificers in building ...	5,330	2,787	2,543	
„ 24. Railway plant ...	24	16	8	
„ 25. Carts, carriages, &c. ...	339	173	166	
„ 26. Ships and boats ...	119	69	50	
„ 27. Paper, &c. ...	4,020	2,131	1,889	
„ 28. Books and prints, &c. ...	108	57	51	
„ 29. Watches, clocks, and scientific instruments.	4	4	...	
„ 30. Carving, engraving ...	...	...	...	
„ 31. Toys, curiosities, &c. ...	78	51	27	

Occupation.	Nadia.			Remarks.
	Total.	Male.	Female.	
1	2	3	4	5
Class D—*Preparation and Supply of Material Substances*—concluded.				
Group 32. Music and musical instruments.	1,044	517	527	
„ 33. Necklaces, bracelets, beads, sacred threads.	1,536	845	691	
„ 34. Furniture ...	...	...	...	
„ 35. Harness ...	...	...	...	
„ 36. Tools and machinery ...	385	224	161	
„ 37. Arms and ammunition ...	...	...	...	
„ 38. Wool and fur ...	103	35	68	
„ 39. Silk ...	105	46	59	
„ 40. Cotton ...	25,443	12,742	12,701	
„ 41. Jute, flax, coir, &c. ...	1,807	732	1,075	
„ 42. Dress	8,237	3,790	4,447	
„ 43. Gold, silver, and precious stones.	12,504	6,305	6,199	
„ 44. Brass, copper, and bell-metal.	2,190	1,134	1,056	
„ 45. Tin, zinc, mercury, and lead.	108	49	59	
„ 46. Iron and steel ...	8,709	4,510	4,199	
„ 47. Glass and chinaware ...	111	52	59	
„ 48. Earthen and stoneware	11,767	5,664	6,103	
„ 49. Timber and wood ...	13,831	6,827	7,004	
„ 50. Canework, matting, and leaves.	4,782	2,154	2,628	
„ 51. Gums, wax, and similar forest produce.	8	3	5	
„ 52. Drugs, dyes, pigments	377	191	186	
„ 53. Leather, &c. ...	6,757	3,369	3,388	
Total class D ...	269,606	131,276	138,330	
Class E—*Commerce, Transport, and Storage.*				
Group 54. Dealers in money and securities.	1,128	486	642	
„ 55. General merchandise ...	10,720	5,041	5,679	
„ 56. Dealings, unspecified ...	4,638	2,234	2,404	
„ 57. Middlemen, &c. ...	1,169	583	586	
„ 58. Railway ...	2,374	1,442	932	
„ 59. Road ...	11,625	5,546	6,079	
„ 60. Water ...	10,313	6,744	3,569	
„ 61. Messages ...	1,346	738	608	
„ 62. Storage and weighing ...	698	316	382	
Total class E ..	44,011	23,130	20,881	
Class F—*Professions.*				
Group 63. Religion ...	15,740	7,393	8,347	
„ 64. Education ...	3,852	1,827	2,025	
„ 65. Literature ...	1,445	707	738	
„ 66. Law ...	1,446	683	763	
„ 67. Medicine ...	6,084	2,453	3,631	
„ 68. Engineering and surveying.	580	289	291	
„ 69. Other sciences ...	196	97	99	

Occupation.	Nadia.			Remarks.
	Total.	Male.	Female.	
1	2	3	4	5
Class F—*Professions*—concluded.				
Group 70. Pictorial arts and sculpture.	1,060	324	736	
„ 71. Music, acting, and dancing	6,865	3,423	3,442	
„ 72. Sport	61	32	29	
„ 73. Exhibitions and games	157	78	79	
Total class F ...	37,486	17,306	20,180	
Class G—*Indefinite and Independent.*				
Group 74. Unskilled labour ...	348,882	157,517	191,365	
„ 75. Undefined, &c. ...	2,588	181	2,407	
„ 76. Property and alms ...	29,416	12,523	16,893	
„ 77. Supported at the public charge.	587	368	219	
Total class G ...	381,473	170,589	210,884	

The figures shown in the tables show only the bulk of the population following each class of occupation, without any regard to the age, and in default of any statistics available, the remarks must be limited to all ages of the population.

71. Taking the figures as they stand, the statement below, prepared from the occupation tables, gives in an abstract form the leading facts concerning the occupation of the district population of both sexes:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage of district population.
1	2	3	4	5
Class A—Government	10,007	9,996	20,003	1·2
„ B—Pasture and agriculture ...	422,117	413,813	835,930	50·8
„ C—Personal service ...	27,722	27,877	55,599	3 4
„ D—Preparation and supply of material substances ...	131,276	138,330	269,606	16·4
„ E—Commerce, &c. ...	23,130	20,881	44,011	2·7
„ F—Professions ...	17,306	20,180	37,486	2·3
„ G—Indefinite and independent ...	170,589	210,884	381 473	23·2
	802,147	841,961	1,644 108	100

72. It will be seen from the above table that 50·8 per cent. of the population follow pastural and agricultural pursuits, and of 23·2 per cent. the occupation is either indefinite or independent. Under class D, or preparation and supply of material substances, fall 16·4 per cent., which is only a third of those following agriculture.

73. 3·4 per cent. are engaged in personal service as barbers, washermen, water-carriers, &c.; while 2·7 per cent. follow commerce, transport, and other pursuits falling under this head; 2 3 per cent. follow learned and artistic professions; and 1·2 per cent. under the head of Government.

74. The following table will show the percentage of males and females of each class compared to the district population, irrespective of age or religion :—

Class.	Number.		Percentage.		Remarks.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Class A ...	10,007	9,996	1·2	1·1	
„ B ...	422,117	413,813	52·8	49·2	
„ C ...	27,722	27,877	3·4	3·3	
„ D ...	131,276	138,330	16·4	16·5	
„ E ...	23,130	20,881	2·8	2·4	
„ F ...	17,306	20,180	2·1	2·4	
„ G ...	170,589	210,884	21·3	25·1	
Total ...	802,147	841,961	100	100	

75. *Class A—Government.*—The classification in the present census tables having been changed from that of 1881, the figures under each head are not strictly comparable, but eliminating from the classification adopted in 1881 such of those which have now been grouped separately, the figures under this class show that there are 10,007 males compared to 5,646 males of 1881.

There are no statistics under the head of females. The fact tends to show that the wives, daughters, &c., of the officers, &c., employed in the government of the district, both Imperial and municipal or village service, were left out. The increase may also be due to the fact that evidently constables and messengers were left out from this head in 1881. It is, however, possible that from the very careful instructions issued to the enumerators the denomination of service in each case was noted with more accuracy than was done in the census of 1881, and hence the information under each subhead is more complete. The percentage of male population under this head is compared to the district population, which shows that only an infinitesimal portion of the population has taken to service more or less connected with the government of the district.

76. *Class B—Pasture and Agriculture.*—This is divided into 6 groups and 30 subheads. The population under this head is 50·8 per cent., of whom the largest number, viz. 770,399, come under the group "Interest in land," and furnish very interesting statistics, as under :—

1. Land occupants, not cultivating	... ...	12,529
2. Ditto cultivating	... ...	37
3. Tenants, not cultivating	... ...	37,072
4. Do. and sharers, cultivating	... ...	720,761

77. There are 27,096 dealing in live-stock and 16,650 agricultural labourers. Under the head growers of special products and trees fall 4,313.

78. It is not possible to check these figures with those arrived at in 1881, as the details given in this census are not obtainable from the figures of 1881 for purposes of comparison.

79. *Class C—Personal Service.*—This is divided into three groups, of which the number under personal and sanitary service is 55,486 against 33,112 in 1881. This shows a large increase of 59·6 per cent., which is evidently due to the high price of staple food, which induced many to take to domestic service.

80. The number against cooks (92) and water-carriers (29) must be wrong, as it cannot be that such a small number is employed in such capacities. Even if they be correct, they serve to show that the number of men requiring such services is very limited. It is true that in all rural tracts generally the females draw water and do other indoor work, and it is only the well-to-do class who resort to the agency of servants for household duties. Considering, however, that there are nine municipal towns in the district where cooks and water-carriers are in requisition, the figures supplied appear to be disproportionate.

81. The number of indoor servants is returned as 2,970, and that of barbers is 11,470, and washermen only 3,537. The number of barbers far outweighs any other kind of persona service.

82. *Class D—Preparation and Supply of Material Substances.*—The population under this head is 269,606, or 16·4 per cent. of the total population. This number is divided into 37 groups, and the population under each of them is shown in the table in para. 70.

83. This is the industrial class. They take raw materials, and alter the form, texture, or composition, and produce a variety of new goods, instruments, and machines or are the suppliers of such articles of produce of other countries to meet the local demand, as also to meet the demands of neighbouring districts, for which the present facilities of rapid communication have opened fields for more extensive sales.

84. It will be seen from the figures that the population under animal food is the largest, including, as it does, the fishermen and fish-dealers, whose number is 53,584; but taking the number of persons coming under this class, viz. 75,938, they form 28·1 per cent. of the population and 4·6 per cent. of the total district population. Compared to the population (44,027) in 1881 under this head, there has been an increase of over 70 per cent.

85. It is impossible to intercompare the figures under each head, from the fact that a portion of the district, viz. Bongong, having been transferred after the census of 1881, the figures of the present census cannot be strictly comparable with that of 1881.

86. It is significant that some of the industries have not found place in the present census—such as workers in furniture when 347 was shown under this head in 1881. It cannot be said that the indigenous furniture-makers have died out, but that their number is rather on the increase.

87. In the preparation and production of the articles the pay and profits are charged in the price of the commodities, the wages of the workmen being advanced by their masters. In the case of the industries for the trade it is the practice that the workers charge all kinds of expenses, including their labour, on the goods turned out, and either sell them or make them over to persons advancing capital for their production: The most thriving of the industries are those of cotton, gold, and silver; earthen and stoneware; timber, wood and dress; artificers of building and the dealers of human food and condiments. Pottery works, for which the district is famous, still holds its place, and the clay figures are much in demand from various countries and exhibitions With the diffusion of mass education, people are taking largely to their comforts and reformed modes of life which has served to give a little impetus to the development of some of the industries, but there is every danger of these being swamped and replaced by British goods at no distant date.

88. *Class E—Commerce, Transport, and Storage.*—The population under this head is 44,011, or 2·7 per cent of the district population. These are divided into 9 groups, of which the largest number is included under general merchandise, which shows 10,720 persons. The service of the palki-bearers seems equally extensive, showing 10,251; while the cart-owners and cart-drivers number 1,277 and boat and bargemen 9,265.

89. *Class F—Professions.*—Population 37,486 or 2·3 per cent. This is divided into 11 groups, of which those under religious service is most predominant, 15,740 are returned under this class. Nadia, being the seat of *Pandits*, and the profession being so easy-going and at the same time much respected, Brahmans have largely taken to it. Next to this comes music, acting, and dancing, in which 6,865 persons are returned. This is followed by the large number of 6,084 persons following medicine, of which only 48 practise by diploma and 3,981 without diploma and *Hakims*, 1,803 midwives, and the rest are vaccinators, oculist, &c Under the head of education is shown 3,824, professors, teachers, &c. The profession of law is represented by 1,446 persons, whereas that of engineering by 580 only.

90. *Class G*—This represents 381,473, or 23·2 per cent. of the population. The majority falls under the head of general labour, while 26,222 are under mendicancy. The rest call for little remark.

91. In the absence of any other statistics as that of age, religion, and education, it is difficult to make any elaborate review of this section, and even for that they would serve of little avail in the general treatment of the census of Bengal.

92. The different castes may be classified on account of their occupations as follows:—

A—Agricultural—

Muhammadans.
Sadgop.
Chasadhopa.
Kaibartta (Halia).

The landed interest, so far as actual tilling is concerned, is practically passing into the hands of the Musalmans. The men of other castes are few in this line of occupation, such as Goalas, Tiyars, &c., and hence they are excluded from the category.

B—Professional—

Brahman.
Baidya.

C—Commercial—

Gandhabanik.
Tamli, Teli.
Saha.
Subarnabanik.

D—Artisans—

Modak.
Tanti.
Kamar.
Kumhar.
Sarnakar.
Jugi.
Muchi.
Dom.
Baiti.
Tiyar (masons).
Tailor (Muhammadan).
Mali.
Chhutar.
Nuri.

E—Pastoral Group—

Goala.

F—Hunting and fishing group—

Jaliya.
Malo.
Rajbansi.
Bagdi.
Dulia.
Chandal.
Pakhimara.
Nikari.

G—Serving group—

Bauri (palki-bearer).
Hari.
Mehter.
Napit.
Dhopa.

H—Unproductive group—

Astrologer.
Singer.
Bhat.

I—Dancers and singers—

Ganui.

J—Snake-charmers—

Malo.
Bedia.

K—Musicians—

Baiti.
Muchi.
Baul.

Occupation.	Total population.	Percentage.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4
Class A ...	20,003	1·2	
" B ...	835,930	50·8	
" C ...	55,599	3·4	
" D ...	269,606	16·4	
" E ...	44,011	2·7	
" F ...	37,486	2·3	
" G ...	381,473	23·2	
Total ...	1,644,108	100·	

Head X.—Administrative.*

I.—*Administration.*

93. The instructions issued were generally followed. The main deviations are noted below:—

Points of departure from general instructions.

(1) While school-masters were made use of, they could not be made the chief agency, as they are too few in number. In the Meherpur sub-division the *zamindari* and factory servants were employed as Circle Officers with the willing consent of the *zamindars* and indigo-planters, and they did the work intelligently and well. Elsewhere, *zamindari* agents, school-masters and other educated local residents were utilized. The blocks were numbered with reference to the circle, and not with reference to the charge. This was carried out before the E. Register was received and found convenient for the Circle Officers in practice.

(2) The general rule was observed of giving 50 houses to a block, and not more than 500 to a circle, but it became necessary to deviate from the rule in many cases. If new houses were put up in a block they were added to the number already allotted, and many large villages, which had more than 500 houses, could still be most conveniently dealt with as one circle.

(3) The enumerators generally made rough drafts in their own paper, and when complete and correct, copied them into the schedule books. This obviated much spoiling of books.

94. The instructions contained in Circular No. 10, of the 30th July 1890, were adhered to in preparing the village list. Each village bears its own name, and the *paras* and *muhullas* are included in it.

Definition of a village.

95. The definition of a house, as laid down in the second instruction to supervisors, was carefully attended to. Persons living in one *bari*, but eating in separate messes, were taken to be the owners of separate houses, and this swelled the number of houses greatly in Kustea sub-division as compared with the census of 1881 when a *bari* was taken as one house, irrespective of the fact of the inmates of the *bari* having had separate messes or, in other words, *prithak-khanna.*

Definition of a house.

96. In the Sadar sub-division the charge corresponded with the *thana.* One large out-post was made a sub-charge, and the two municipalities, viz., Krisnagar and Nadia, also formed two sub-charges. There were six charges and three sub-charges.

Size of a charge.

In the Meherpur sub-division there were four charges, corresponding to the four *thanas* in that sub-division. The Meherpur municipality formed a sub-charge.

In Ranaghat the four *thanas* formed four charges, and the four municipalities formed four sub-charges.

In Kushtia six *thanas* formed each a charge and three out-posts and two municipalities formed each a sub-charge

In the Chuadanga sub-division there were five charges, corresponding to the equal number of *thanas*, and two sub-charges were formed in *thana* Allamdanga which has very extensive jurisdiction.

97. The size of the circle was formed so that the officer in charge of it could properly supervise the work. The number of blocks in a circle varied from 3 to 20, but in the large majority of cases the circle contained 10 blocks.

Size of a circle.

98. The size of the block was kept within manageable limits. Most blocks contained 50 houses.

Size of a block.

99. *Tar* was used for the numbering of houses. The cost was very trifling. A *seer* of *tar* would mark 50 houses and the cost would be one anna or five pice. The expenses have been borne by the supervisors and enumerators in rural tracts and by municipalities in towns. I have, up to this time, paid Rs. 46-10-3 to supervisors of rural tracts under this head. I had to return some of the supervisors' bills, which contained excessive charges.

Numbering of houses.

* *Vide* lettter No. 675 $\frac{J.G.}{C}$, dated the 1st April 1891, from E. G. Glazier, Esq., Magistrate of Nadia, to the address of the Superintendent of Census Operations.

Practicability of a permanent numbering of houses.

100. It is an insane idea to keep up permanent numbering. It would entail an immense amount of supervision and a great deal of expense, to no purpose. There are constant changes in villages, owing to the removal of some houses and the building of fresh ones, and if the old numbers were kept up, what with the blanks from removals and the fresh numbers of new houses, the numbering, in the course of ten years, would be a puzzle that it would be difficult to decipher.

II.— Agency.

Classes from which the enumerators and supervisors were derived.

101. The school-masters and *pandits*, where available, the *zamindars* and factory servants and the educated middle classes were appointed supervisors. The enumerators were selected from *panchayets* and other villagers who could read and write.

Whether their duties were willingly undertaken or not.

102. The duties were, as a rule, willingly undertaken and carried out with zeal and intelligence. A few showed reluctance to work at the outset without remuneration, but a little judicious firmness overcame this difficulty, and in the end the work was carried out willingly throughout the district.

How many prosecutions there were, and what for.

103. There was no prosecution under the Census Act.

Whether their duties involved any pecuniary expenditure, and how much.

104. The duties of supervisors and enumerators involved pecuniary expenditure for purchase of paper and ink. The amount in each case is trifling, and bills amounting to Rs. 20-5-3 have been paid up to the present date.

If any paid census officers were employed.

105. No paid census officers had to be employed in this district.

III—Attitude of the people.

106. No rumours were in circulation, and no erroneous ideas were current on the present occasion, as this is the third census that has been taken, and it is now well known that the information is being collected for statistical purposes.

IV.—The results.

107. I consider that the results may be accepted as correct.

108. The subjoined list show the results, *thana* by *thana*. It will be seen that there is a decrease in the whole district of 18,687. Kushtia is the only subdivision that shows an increase, one of 29,159. The rest of the district shows a decrease of 47,846, or 4 per cent. The decrease is most marked in those *thanas* of the Sadar and Ranaghat sub-divisions which fall into a line drawn from north-west to south-east, from the borders of Murshidabad to those of Jessore. These *thanas* show a decrease varying from 6 to nearly 20 per cent. In the Chuadanga sub-division also a batch of three *thanas*, bordering on Jessore, shows a decrease varying from 6 to 9 per cent. :—

THANA.	1881.			1891.			REMARKS
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Krishnagar	57,980	61,489	119,469	54,897	57,377	112,274	
Kaliganj	26,206	27,986	54,192	22,790	24,055	46,845	
Nakasipara	28,486	31,276	59,762	27,214	29,171	56,385	
Chapra	30,985	32,524	63,509	31,365	32,116	63,481	
Kissenganj	15,981	16,720	32,701	15,866	16,792	32,658	
Hanskhali	22,242	23,098	45,340	18,599	18,765	37,364	
Total ...	181,880	193,093	374,973	170,731	178,276	349,007	
Ranaghat	41,122	43,293	84,415	37,941	39,366	77,307	
Santipur	25,362	28,502	53,864	25,700	28,264	53,964	
Chakdaha	32,527	32,093	64,620	33,394	30,529	63,923	
Haringhatta... ...	19,419	18,887	38,306	17,737	17,105	34,842	
Total ...	118,430	122,775	241,205	114,772	115,264	230,036	
Kushtia	13,485	13,958	27,443	16,752	16,753	33,505	
Nayapara	66,117	71,277	137,394	67,096	73,787	140,883	
Daulatpur	39,026	41,545	80,571	40,459	43,696	84,155	
Bhadalia	33,447	34,737	68,184	35,196	37,181	72,377	
Kumarkhali	48,099	50,148	98,247	50,022	53,102	103,124	
Bhalluka	20,056	21,873	41,929	23,499	25,384	43,883	
Total ...	220,230	233,538	453,768	233,024	249,903	482,927	

Thana.	1881.			1891.			Remarks.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Meherpur	34,557	37,128	71.685	33,860	35,656	69,516	
Karimpur	49,200	53,554	102,754	51,057	55,795	106,852	
Gangani	36,628	38,327	74,955	35,533	37,694	73,227	
Tehatta	42,957	46,203	89,160	43,314	44,807	87,121	
Total ..	163,342	175,212	338,554	162,764	173,952	336,716	
Ghuadanga	10,719	11,099	21,818	9,813	9,947	19,760	
Damurhuda	30,783	32,231	63,014	31,058	32,328	63,386	
Alamdanga	44,529	45,418	89,947	44,045	45,618	89,663	
Kalupol	19,676	19,720	39,396	18,065	18,402	36,467	
Jibannagar	19,803	20,317	40,120	17,875	18,271	36,146	
Total ...	125,510	128,785	254,295	120,856	124,566	245,422	
Grand Total ...	809,392	853,403	1,662,795	802,147	841,961	1,644,108	

The cause of this decrease may be ascribed to several causes. The absence of pilgrims this year at the time the census was taken, and the migration of population on account of the floods of recent years may account for part of the decrease, but it must mainly be attributed to the epidemic fever which raged very furiously in this district in the years 1881 to 1886. Added to these causes there must also be taken into account a marked tendency of population to move to the metropolitan districts. The richer classes go to reside in Calcutta, and the middle classes migrate with their families for work to the metropolis and its neighbourhood. For further particulars on this subject I beg to refer to my No. 504 I. G. C., dated the 9th instant, to the address of the Superintendent of Census.

Abstraction and Tabulation.

110. The work of abstraction and tabulation was conducted under the supervision of a Deputy Magistrate under the direct control of the District Magistrate. A shed was built at a cost of Rs. 200 for the accommodation of the staff of abstractors and tabulators employed in the work. The records were kept in a room of the circuit-house, which is close to the working shed. A *verandah* and certain other parts of the circuit-house had also to be used for the abstracting and tabulating clerks.

111. According to the Census Superintendent's Circular No 44, dated 27th February 1891, the Inspector in charge of the process of abstraction and tabulation, together with the record-keeper and three totallers, were sent to the training centre opened at Calcutta to receive instructions. On their return the work was started on the 30th March 1891 with only one gang of abstractors, consisting of 23 men; and after a week, when they learnt the process of abstraction fully, the full gang, consisting of 92 men, was taken from among the enumerators of the several sub-divisions of this district on a scale of pay ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 a month. An Inspector on a pay of Rs. 75 a month was appointed to supervise the work. He was assisted by 13 room supervisors, whose duty was to verify the totals and test the accuracy of the work. They were on a pay of Rs. 25 each. The Inspector was a graduate of the Calcutta University, and the room supervisors were men of fair educational acquirements. This gang of workers was settled on the basis of the population of the district and according to the scale sanctioned by the Superintendent of Census. All the circular orders of the Superintendent were followed strictly. The abstraction establishment worked up to the 13th July 1891, or for 3 months and 15 days. The experienced abstractors were taken in for the re-abstraction and tabulation. The full task as set down in the Superintendent's circular was exacted during the abstraction process, but it was found difficult to obtain from the tabulators their allotted task.

112. The following was the average outturn on each register:—

Registers.	Task given	Task fixed per man.
I, III, IV, V, X, XA, XI, XIA, XIIA, XIIB, and XIIIA and B ...	35	40
VIA, B, and C	36	40
VII	40	40
VIII and IX	120	120
XIV, XVA and B	40	40
XX	38	40

9607

113. The tabulation process was begun from the 29th June, when only 12 men were entertained, and after a fortnight the whole sanctioned gang of 56 men was taken, and they worked up to the 7th September 1891. Any of the sheets which were found incorrect or untrustworthy were corrected or reabstracted from the original book, so that the possibility of any error or omission was reduced to a minimum

114. I agree fully in the view expressed by the Superintendent of Census in paragraph 3 of his circular No. 98, that it was inadvisable to begin all the abstraction sheets at once. It was certainly a much better plan to employ the staff on the simplest sheets (IV, V, VI, and VII), and then advance to the more difficult and intricate ones when the staff was well trained.

115. *Test slips.*—These were of great help to the Inspector and the adjustment clerks to detect if any of the sheets were badly worked. I have nothing to suggest on the prescribed form, except that there should have been a column to note the names of the different abstractors of the various sheets when the test slips were being compiled, to bring home the error to the careless worker. There was little good in having the totals of the different sheets put on in the left-hand bottom corner of the slip. The work of filling in of these test-slips was a matter of great difficulty in the beginning, inasmuch as the Inspector was ordered to do so with the help of his assistant. This was, however, found to be impossible, and the work fell into arrears. It was, however, completed with the help of additional hands sanctioned by the Superintendent of Census later on.

116. I agree with the Census Superintendent in holding that it would have been well to have the test slips bound in *thana* books and steadily filled up as each sheet was completed. The plan followed in this district was to have these test slips bound according to the number of sheets used for each packet of the enumeration books; but as the packets had to be bound up to bring the population up to 5,000, the systematic and serial order of the enumeration books according to the P. Register entries had to be disturbed, and the subsequent arrangement of the abstraction sheets in serial order rendered difficult for the purposes of tabulation. It would be much better if the abstraction sheets and the test slips were arranged serially according to the P. Register entries, to avoid the possibility of any omission or misplacement of the sheets.

117. In cases in which errors were found in any of the sheets (as appeared on a comparison of the figures of the different sheets) the limit of adjustment given by the Superintendent (*i.e.*, 11 per cent.) was followed, and sheets which were found to exceed the limit were reabstracted at the cost of the defaulting clerk or met from the fine fund.

118. I agree in the view expressed by the Census Superintendent in paragraph 3 of his circular No. 98, that "no margin of error should be recognized, and no separate payment made for reabstraction and adjustment." If the pay of the abstractors were raised to Rs. 18 a month, a better set of men could have been found and the work would have been done with fewer mistakes, and any reabstraction needed would be paid for out of the withheld one-third pay of the abstractors.

119. The total cost of the whole of the establishment for the process of abstraction, re-abstraction, tabulation, &c., was Rs. 10,248-15, which when taken in connection with the district population (which has been ascertained in the present census to be 1,643,366) brings up the cost to a little above 9 annas per cent. of the population. It is my confirmed opinion that payments should, in all such cases, be by task, and not by the month.

120. *Record-room.*—The arrangements suggested by the Census Superintendent in his circular No. 42 were followed with great success.

F. daC.-Reg. No. 6356J—90—26-10-96-